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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,073	02/09/2001	William P. Apps	RPC 0557 PUS	7630

7590 03/24/2004

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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Communication Re: Appeal	Application No. 09/780,073	Applicant(s) Apps, William
	Examiner Stephen J. Castellano	Art Unit 3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. ☐ The Notice of Appeal filed on _____ is not acceptable because:
 - (a) ☐ it was not timely filed.
 - (b) ☐ the statutory fee for filing the appeal was not submitted. See 37 CFR 1.17(b).
 - (c) ☐ the appeal fee received on _____ was not timely filed.
 - (d) ☐ the submitted fee of \$_____ is insufficient. The appeal fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(b) is \$_____.
 - (e) ☐ the appeal is not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.191 in that there is no record of a second or a final rejection in this application.
 - (f) ☐ a Notice of Allowability, PTO-37, was mailed by the Office on _____.
2. ☐ The appeal brief filed on _____ is NOT acceptable for the reason(s) indicated below:
 - (a) ☐ the brief and/or brief fee is untimely. See 37 CFR 1.192.
 - (b) ☐ the statutory fee for filing the brief has not been submitted. See 37 CFR 1.17(c).
 - (c) ☐ the submitted brief fee of \$_____ is insufficient. The brief fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(c) is \$_____.

The appeal in this application will be dismissed unless corrective action is taken to timely submit the brief and requisite fee. Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

3. ☒ The appeal in this application is DISMISSED because:
 - (a) ☐ the statutory fee for filing the brief as required under 37 CFR 1.17(c) was not timely submitted and the period for obtaining an extension of time to file the brief under 37 CFR 1.136 has expired.
 - (b) ☐ the brief was not timely filed and the period for obtaining an extension of time to file the brief under 37 CFR 1.136 has expired.
 - (c) ☐ Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed on _____.
 - (d) ☒ other: See Continuation Sheet
4. ☒ Because of the dismissal of the appeal, this application:
 - (a) ☒ is abandoned because there are no allowed claims.
 - (b) ☐ is before the examiner for final disposition because it contains allowed claims. Prosecution on the merits remains CLOSED.
 - (c) ☐ is before the examiner for consideration of the submission and prosecution has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.


 Stephen J. Castellano
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit: 3727

Continuation of 3. (d) Other: The arguments presented for separate patentability of Groups B-G are insufficient. In particular, Groups B-D seem to present the same argument. Claims 6 (Group B), 13 (Group C) and 22 (Group D) have similar language stating that the band is "contoured downwardly." The discussion presented under the various headings for Groups B-D merely state that these claims have different language. It seems that Groups B-D would be unpatentable based upon one concept: The band of Apps ('925) is contoured downwardly. Also, the copy of the appealed claims in the Appendix is incorrect because claim 22 has been amended to delete the phrase "adjacent the parallel portions."